

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and/or listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended): A method performed in a Financial Service Organization (FSO) computer system, the method comprising:  
reading a key definition from a database, wherein the key definition describes a location of one or more data element values in a set of transaction-related data, wherein the key definition is ~~identified~~ defined by a user of the Financial Service Organization (FSO) computer system during a configuration of the FSO computer system, wherein the configuration of the FSO computer system occurs when a software program on the FSO computer system is initially set up for processing FSO transactions;  
reading from the transaction-related data the one or more data element values described in the key definition; and  
transferring the one or more data element values read from the transaction-related data to a processing key value.
2. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
comparing the processing key value to one or more key values in the database; and  
reading a processing parameter value from the database in response to finding a match between the processing key value and one of the one or more key values stored in the database;  
wherein the processing parameter value read from the database is configured for use in processing the transaction-related data in the FSO computer system.

3. (currently amended): The method of claim 2, wherein the one or more key values in the database are defined by the user of the FSO computer system during the configuration of the FSO computer system, wherein the configuration of the FSO computer system occurs when a software program on the FSO computer system is initially set up for processing FSO transactions.
4. (original): The method of claim 2, wherein the database further comprises a plurality of processing parameter tables, wherein each processing parameter table comprises one or more rows, wherein each row in the processing parameter table comprises one processing parameter value and one key value.
5. (currently amended): The method of claim 4, wherein the key definition is one of a plurality of key definitions in the database, wherein each of the plurality of key definitions in the database is associated with one of the plurality of processing parameter tables in the database, wherein the plurality of key definitions associated with one of the plurality of processing parameter tables is stored in a key definition table, wherein reading the key definition from the database comprises reading the key definition for the processing parameter table from the key definition table, wherein the key definition further describes a data format of the key values in the one or more rows of the processing parameter table to which the key definition is associated.
6. (original): The method of claim 5, wherein each of the key values in the processing parameter table comprises one or more key element values.
7. (original): The method of claim 6, wherein each of the plurality of key definitions in the database comprises one or more key elements, wherein each of the one or more key

elements describes a data format of one of the one or more key element values in the key values.

8. (original): The method of claim 1, wherein the key definition comprises one or more key elements, wherein each of the one or more key elements describes a location and data format of one of the one or more data element values in the transaction-related data.
9. (original): The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
reading a search mask from the database, wherein the search mask comprises one or more search mask fields, wherein each of the one or more search mask fields corresponds to one of the one or more data element values described in the key definition, and wherein each of the one or more search mask fields comprises a search mask field value.
10. (currently amended): The method of claim 9, wherein the transferring the one or more data element values read from the transaction-related data to the processing key value further comprises:  
~~transferring to the processing key value~~ one of the one or more data element values read from the transaction-related data to the processing key value in response to a search mask field value indicating that the data element value from the transaction-related data is to be written to the processing key value; and  
~~transferring to the processing key value~~ a low collating value to the processing key value in response to the search mask field value indicating that the low collating value is to be written to the processing key value.
11. (currently amended): The method of claim 9, wherein the search mask fields or the search mask field values are ~~is~~ defined by the user of the FSO computer system during the configuration of the FSO computer system.

12. (currently amended): A computer system for processing Financial Service Organization (FSO) transactions, the FSO computer system comprising:

a computer program;

a Financial Service Organization (FSO) computer system;

wherein the computer program is executable on the FSO computer system to execute:

reading a key definition from a database, wherein the key definition describes a location of one or more data element values in a set of transaction-related data, wherein the key definition is ~~identified~~ defined by a user of the FSO computer system during a configuration of the FSO computer system, wherein the configuration of the FSO computer system occurs when a software program on the FSO computer system is initially set up for processing FSO transactions;

reading from the transaction-related data the one or more data element values described in the key definition; and

transferring the one or more data element values read from the transaction-related data to a processing key value.

13. (currently amended): The system of claim 12, wherein the computer program is further executable on the FSO computer system to execute:

comparing the processing key value to one or more key values in the database, and;

reading a processing parameter value from the database in response to finding a match between the processing key value and one of the one or more key values stored in the database; wherein the processing parameter value read from the database is configured for use in processing the transaction-related data in the FSO computer system.

14. (currently amended): The system of claim 13, wherein the one or more key values in the database are defined by the user of the FSO computer system during the configuration of the FSO computer system, wherein the configuration of the FSO computer system occurs when a software program on the FSO computer system is initially set up for processing FSO transactions.
15. (original): The system of claim 13, wherein the database further comprises a plurality of processing parameter tables, wherein each processing parameter table comprises one or more rows, wherein each row in the processing parameter table comprises one processing parameter value and one key value.
16. (currently amended): The system of claim 15, wherein the key definition is one of a plurality of key definitions in the database, wherein each of the plurality of key definitions in the database is associated with one of the plurality of processing parameter tables in the database, wherein the plurality of key definitions associated with one of the plurality of processing parameter tables is stored in a key definition table, wherein reading the key definition from the database comprises reading the key definition for the processing parameter table from the key definition table, wherein the key definition further describes a data format of the key values in the one or more rows of the processing parameter table to which the key definition is associated.
17. (original): The system of claim 16, wherein each of the key values in the processing parameter table comprises one or more key element values.
18. (original): The system of claim 17, wherein each of the plurality of key definitions in the database comprises one or more key elements, wherein each of the one or more key

elements describes a data format of one of the one or more key element values in the key values.

19. (original): The system of claim 12, wherein the key definition comprises one or more key elements, wherein each of the one or more key elements describes a location and data format of one of the one or more data element values in the transaction-related data.
20. (currently amended): The system of claim 12, wherein the computer program is further executable on the FSO computer system to execute:  
reading a search mask from the database, wherein the search mask comprises one or more search mask fields, wherein each of the one or more search mask fields corresponds to one of the one or more data element values described in the key definition, and wherein each of the one or more search mask fields comprises a search mask field value.
21. (currently amended): The system of claim 20, wherein the transferring the one or more data element values read from the transaction-related data to the processing key value further comprises:  
transferring ~~to the processing key value~~ one of the one or more data element values read from the transaction-related data to the processing key value in response to a search mask field value indicating that the data element value from the transaction-related data is to be written to the processing key value; and  
transferring ~~to the processing key value~~ a low collating value to the processing key value in response to the search mask field value indicating that the low collating value is to be written to the processing key value.
22. (currently amended): The system of claim 20, wherein the search mask fields or the search mask field values are is defined by the user of the FSO computer system during the

configuration of the FSO computer system.

23. (currently amended): A carrier medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are executable by a Financial Service Organization (FSO) computer system to implement:

reading a key definition from a database, wherein the key definition describes a location of one or more data element values in a set of transaction-related data, wherein the key definition is ~~identified~~ defined by a user of the Financial Service Organization (FSO) computer system during a configuration of the FSO computer system, wherein the configuration of the FSO computer system occurs when a software program on the FSO computer system is initially set up for processing FSO transactions;

reading from the transaction-related data the one or more data element values described in the key definition; and

transferring the one or more data element values read from the transaction-related data to a processing key value.

24. (currently amended): The carrier medium of claim 23, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the FSO computer system to implement:

comparing the processing key value to one or more key values in the database, and;

reading a processing parameter value from the database in response to finding a match between the processing key value and one of the one or more key values stored in the database; wherein the processing parameter value read from the database is configured for use in processing the transaction-related data in the FSO computer system.

25. (original): The carrier medium of claim 24, wherein the one or more key values in the database are defined by the user of the FSO computer system during the configuration of the FSO computer system.

26. (original): The carrier medium of claim 24, wherein the database further comprises a plurality of processing parameter tables, wherein each processing parameter table comprises one or more rows, wherein each row in the processing parameter table comprises one processing parameter value and one key value.
27. (currently amended): The carrier medium of claim 26, wherein the key definition is one of a plurality of key definitions in the database, wherein each of the plurality of key definitions in the database is associated with one of the plurality of processing parameter tables in the database, wherein the plurality of key definitions associated with one of the plurality of processing parameter tables is stored in a key definition table, wherein reading the key definition from the database comprises reading the key definition for the processing parameter table from the key definition table, wherein the key definition further describes a data format of the key values in the one or more rows of the processing parameter table to which the key definition is associated.
28. (original): The carrier medium of claim 27, wherein each of the key values in the processing parameter table comprises one or more key element values.
29. (original): The carrier medium of claim 28, wherein each of the plurality of key definitions in the database comprises one or more key elements, wherein each of the one or more key elements describes a data format of one of the one or more key element values in the key values.
30. (original): The carrier medium of claim 23, wherein the key definition comprises one or more key elements, wherein each of the one or more key elements describes a location



and data format of one of the one or more data element values in the transaction-related data.

31. (currently amended): The carrier medium of claim 23, wherein the program instructions are further executable by the FSO computer system to implement:  
reading a search mask from the database, wherein the search mask comprises one or more search mask fields, wherein each of the one or more search mask fields corresponds to one of the one or more data element values described in the key definition, and wherein each of the one or more search mask fields comprises a search mask field value.
32. (currently amended): The carrier medium of claim 31, wherein the transferring the one or more data element values read from the transaction-related data to the processing key value further comprises:  
~~transferring to the processing key value one of the one or more data element values read from the~~  
transaction-related data to the processing key value in response to a search mask field value indicating that the data element value from the transaction-related data is to be written to the processing key value, and;  
~~transferring to the processing key value a low collating value~~ to the processing key value in response to the search mask field value indicating that the low collating value is to be written to the processing key value.
33. (currently amended): The carrier medium of claim 31, wherein the search mask fields or the search mask field values are ~~is~~ defined by the user of the FSO computer system during the configuration of the FSO computer system.
34. (currently amended): A method performed in a Financial Service Organization (FSO) computer system, the method comprising:

reading a key definition from a database in response to receiving a request for a processing parameter from a first program, wherein the key definition describes a location of one or more data element values in a set of transaction-related data;

reading from the transaction-related data the one or more data element values described in the key definition;

reading a search mask from the database, wherein the search mask comprises one or more search mask fields, wherein each of the one or more search mask fields corresponds to one of the one or more data element values described in the key definition, and wherein each of the one or more search mask fields comprises a search mask field value;

transferring ~~to a processing key value~~ one of the one or more data element values read from the transaction-related data to a processing key value in response to a search mask field value indicating that the data element value from the transaction-related data is to be written to the processing key value, and;

transferring ~~to the processing key value~~ a low collating value to the processing key value in response to the search mask field value indicating that the low collating value is to be written to the processing key value;

comparing the processing key value to one or more key values in the database;

reading a processing parameter value from the database in response to finding a match between the processing key value and one of the one or more key values stored in the database, and;

sending the processing parameter value to the first program;

wherein the processing parameter value sent to the first program is configured for use in processing the transaction-related data in the Financial Service Organization (FSO) computer system.

35. (currently amended): The method of claim 34, wherein the key definition, one or more of the search mask fields, and one or more of the key values in the database are defined by a

user of the FSO computer system during a configuration of the FSO computer system,  
wherein the configuration of the FSO computer system occurs when a software program  
on the FSO computer system is initially set up for processing FSO transactions.

36. (currently amended): A computer system for processing Financial Service Organization  
(FSO) transactions, the system comprising:

a computer program;

a Financial Service Organization (FSO) computer system;

wherein the computer program is executable on the computer system to execute:

reading a key definition from a database in response to receiving a request for a

processing parameter from a first program, wherein the key definition describes a  
location of one or more data element values in a set of transaction-related data;

reading from the transaction-related data the one or more data element values described in  
the key definition;

reading a search mask from the database, wherein the search mask comprises one or more  
search mask fields, wherein each of the one or more search mask fields  
corresponds to one of the one or more data element values described in the key  
definition, and wherein each of the one or more search mask fields comprises a  
search mask field value;

~~transferring to a processing key value~~ one of the one or more data element values read  
from the transaction-related data to a processing key value in response to a search  
mask field value indicating that the data element value from the transaction-  
related data is to be written to the processing key value, and;

~~transferring to the processing key value~~ a low collating value to the processing key value  
in response to the search mask field value indicating that the low collating value is  
to be written to the processing key value;

comparing the processing key value to one or more key values in the database;

reading a processing parameter value from the database in response to finding a match between the processing key value and one of the one or more key values stored in the database, and;

sending the processing parameter value to the first program;

wherein the processing parameter value sent to the first program is configured for use in processing the transaction-related data in the FSO computer system.

37. (currently amended): The system of claim 36, wherein the key definition, one or more of the search mask fields, and one or more of the key values in the database are defined by a user of the FSO computer system during a configuration of the FSO computer system, wherein the configuration of the FSO computer system occurs when a software program on the FSO computer system is initially set up for processing FSO transactions.

38. (currently amended): A carrier medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are executable by a Financial Service Organization (FSO) computer system to implement:

reading a key definition from a database in response to receiving a request for a processing parameter from a first program, wherein the key definition describes a location of one or more data element values in a set of transaction-related data;

reading from the transaction-related data the one or more data element values described in the key definition;

reading a search mask from the database, wherein the search mask comprises one or more search mask fields, wherein each of the one or more search mask fields corresponds to one of the one or more data element values described in the key definition, and wherein each of the one or more search mask fields comprises a search mask field value;

~~transferring to a processing key value~~ one of the one or more data element values read from the transaction-related data to a processing key value in response to a search mask field value

indicating that the data element value from the transaction-related data is to be written to the processing key value; and  
transferring ~~to the processing key value~~ a low collating value to the processing key value in response to the search mask field value indicating that the low collating value is to be written to the processing key value;  
comparing the processing key value to one or more key values in the database;  
reading a processing parameter value from the database in response to finding a match between the processing key value and one of the one or more key values stored in the database;  
and  
sending the processing parameter value to the first program;  
wherein the processing parameter value sent to the first program is configured for use in processing the transaction-related data in the Financial Service Organization (FSO) computer system.

39. (currently amended): The carrier medium of claim 38, wherein the key definition, one or more of the search mask fields, and one or more of the key values in the database are defined by a user of the FSO computer system during a configuration of the FSO computer system, wherein the configuration of the FSO computer system occurs when a software program on the FSO computer system is initially set up for processing FSO transactions.

40-80 (Cancelled).